

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 02226 051246Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 EB-04 OES-02 PRS-01 L-01 /049 W  
-----109654 060359Z /10

R 051215Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1055

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

CONFIDENTIAL PORT OF SPAIN 2226

LIMDIS

FOR TODMAN FROM ARELLANO

KINGSTON PLEASE PASS TO AMB. YOUNG'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VE, TD

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON CARIBBEAN

REF: STATE 181114 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THIS MORNING'S CONSULTATIONS,  
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE CHAMBERS CALLED ME ASIDE  
FOR A PRIVATE DISCUSSION. HE MENTIONED THAT YESTERDAY  
EVENING AND AGAIN THIS MORNING --WHEN THE TT CABINET MET--HE  
HAD SPOKEN WITH PM WILLIAMS ABOUT THE ROLE WHICH TRINIDAD  
AND TOBAGO MOGHT PLAY IN RATIONALIZING SOME OF THE MORE  
PRESSING CARIBBEAN PROBLEMS, E.G. CARICOM'S WEAKNESS,  
PROLIFERATION OF "MINI-STATES," THEIR ECONOMIC UNVIABILITY,  
AND OTHER ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE REGION. THIS FOLLOWED  
A CONVERSATION WITH CHAMBERS AT LUNCH YESTERDAY, IN WHICH I  
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WAS SOUNDING HIM OUT AS TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S WILLINGNESS  
TO CONTINUE THEIR ASSISTANCE IN CARIBBEAN PROBLEM SOLVING.

2. CHAMBERS INFORMED ME THAT PM WILLIAMS HAD LISTENED  
QUIETLY AND THOUGHTFULLY TO HIS RAISING OF THE FUTURE OF  
TT'S INVOLVEMENT IN CARIBBEAN ASSISTANCE EXERCISES.  
CHAMBERS THEN IMPLIED THAT WILLIAMS AND HENCE TT WOULD

SERIOUSLY CONSIDER PLAYING A LEADING ROLE IN WORKING OUT A PROGRAM FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

3. CHAMBERS NOTED A "PRIVATE COMMUNICATION" TO PM WILLIAMS FROM SECRETARY VANCE INQUIRING AS TO WILLIAMS' IDEAS RELATING TO ACTIONS WHICH COULD BE TAKEN IN AMELIORATING CURRENT CARIBBEAN TROUBLES, AND IMPROVING FUTURE STRUCTURAL RELATIONS, WOULD LIKELY ELICIT A POSITIVE RESPONSE WITH CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PM. I TAKE THIS TO MEAN THAT WILLIAMS, OR AT LEAST CHAMBERS, HAS BEEN GIVING THOUGHT TO THESE MATTERS AND WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THE VIEWS.

4. CHAMBERS THEN GENTLY BROACHED THE VENEZUELAN-TRINIDADIAN SITUATION, MENTIONING THAT THERE HAD BEEN HARSH WORDS UTTERED IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, IT WAS CHAMBERS' OPINION THAT "THE OLD MAN" COULD BE LOOKING FOR A PATH TO "THAW" RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA.

5. I MENTIONED THAT A CARIBBEAN CONSORTIUM MIGHT BE A VEHICLE TO CONSIDER AS A MEANS OF OPENING POSITIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND VENEZUELA. HE AGREED THAT, INDEED "PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS FIND IT EASIER TO LET THE PAST TAKE CARE OF ITSELF." AT THIS POINT CHAMBERS OBSERVED THAT IT WAS HIS "SUSPICION THAT THE PM FOR SOME TIME HAS BEEN THINKING ABOUT HOW TO MOVE" IN BETTERING THE NOW VIRTUALLY

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SILENT RELATIONSHIP WITH VENEZUELA. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT A "GOOD SIGN" HAD BEEN THE LACK OF RESPONSE FROM THE VENEZUELANS TO THE EARLIER RATHER STRONG REMARKS OF PM WILLIAMS CONCERNING VENEZUELA'S "NEO-COLONIAL" ASPIRATIONS RE THE CARIBBEAN.

6. WILL COMMENT FURTHER PARTICULARLY CONCERNING "MESSAGE FROM VANCE," WHEN I RETURN ON MONDAY.  
FOX

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, CONSORTIUMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONSULTATIONS ON CARIBBEAN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ECIN, VE, TD, XL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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